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County of Alameda

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

TIKISHA UPSHAW, TYREKA STEWART, and ANDREA HERNANDEZ, on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated,

2

VS.

ALAMEDA COUNTY; ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; SHERIFF GREGORY J. AHERN; ASSISTANT SHERIFF D. HOUGHTELLING, COMMANDER TOM MADIGAN; CAPTAIN D. HESSELEIN, CAPTAIN TARA RUSSELL, CAPTAIN D. SKOLDKVIST, DEPUTY WATSON, DEPUTY STINSON, DEPUTY SENSIBA, DEPUTY HENDERSON, DEPUTY GUERRA, DEPUTY CRANDALL, DEPUTY CHANDRA DEPUTY BURBANK AND DOES 1 THRU 50

Defendants.

I, Kori Guerra, declare:

1. I am currently a deputy sheriff employed by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Case No. 3:18-cv-07814-JD

**DECLARATION OF KORI GUERRA
IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY OF
ALAMEDA'S OPPOSITION TO
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

DATE: February 28, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

JUDGE: Hon. James Donato
COURTROOM: 11, 9th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Complaint filed December 31, 2018

1 Unless specifically stated to be made upon information and belief, I possess personal knowledge
 2 of the matters set forth herein, and if called upon as a witness in this matter, I could and would
 3 competently testify thereto.

4 2. I have been working for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at Santa Rita Jail
 5 since approximately mid-March 2018. Initially, I began working in Housing Unit 24, then I was
 6 assigned to Housing Unit 21 for several months. I returned to Housing Unit 24 on January 17,
 7 2019. Housing Units 21 and 24 are the two female housing units at Santa Rita Jail. I have always
 8 worked on the "C Team," which works three days in a row, followed by three days off, then four
 9 days on followed by four days off. C Team always works the midnight shift. There are two shifts
 10 within C Team, those starting at 1700 hours (5:00 p.m.) and those starting at 1900 hours (7:00
 11 p.m.). I have always worked from 1700 hours until 0500 hours (5:00 a.m.).

12 3. In the course and scope of my duties as a housing deputy, I am generally familiar
 13 with and know the four inmates who submitted declarations in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for
 14 Preliminary Injunction: (a) Tikisha Upshaw, (b) Tyreka Stewart, (c) Crystal Emond, (d) Sindel
 15 Botelho. I am familiar with Ms. Upshaw from my time in Housing Units 21 and 24. With regard
 16 to Ms. Stewart, Ms. Emond, and Ms. Botelho, I am familiar with them from my time in Housing
 17 Unit 21.

18 4. Generally, my duties on my shift are as follows: after I arrive at the jail, I do a
 19 walkthrough of the entire housing unit. When I worked in Housing Unit 21, my duties generally
 20 included supervising cell cleaning, running pod time, supervising pill and sick call and serving
 21 breakfast. In Housing Unit 24, my duties generally include running pod time, supervising pill and
 22 sick call and serving breakfast. In Housing Unit 24, cell cleaning occurs on a different shift.

23 5. The schedules in these two housing units are slightly different. In Housing Unit
 24 21, typically at least once per week I supervised cell cleaning as the first order of business on my
 25 shift. In Housing Unit 21, pod time (free time in a common area during which inmates are able to
 26 make phone calls watch television and workout etc.) typically starts between 1800 and 1900
 27 hours and it could run as long as three hours. During that time, I supervised pill call and sick call.
 28 Various cleaning tasks are taken care of following pod time, which are performed by inmate pod

1 workers. In Housing Unit 24, C Team does not run cell cleaning. Pod time in Housing Unit 24
 2 typically starts at approximately 1745 hours and runs for at least three hours. During that time, I
 3 supervise pill call and sick call. Various cleaning tasks are taken care of following pod time,
 4 which are performed by inmate pod workers.

5 6. In Housing Unit 21, which has only two-person cells, lights out is at 2300 hours.
 6 In Housing Unit 24, which has a dormitory-style housing on the east side and cells with either one
 7 or two people on the west side, lights out is typically at 2300 hours. Since I returned to Housing
 8 Unit 24 on January 17, 2019, lights out has been later than 2300 to facilitate pod time on
 9 approximately two occasions. This only occurs to facilitate mandatory pod time for inmates. If
 10 this occurs, we strive to make sure the inmate having pod time is quiet by turning television down
 11 etc. so as not to disturb other inmates.

12 7. At lights out, the technician in the control room dims the main lighting in the
 13 housing units. The tier lights above the aisles outside the cells stay on for deputy safety in
 14 performing various duties, including the observations described later in this declaration. The
 15 main lighting is turned back on at 0400 hours to facilitate breakfast. After breakfast ends at
 16 approximately 0430 hours, the main lights are dimmed again and remain dimmed at least until my
 17 shift ends at 0445 hours.

18 8. Inmates in the two-person cells have control over the main lighting inside their
 19 unit. In my experience, while the cells are equipped with night lights, only about forty percent of
 20 the night lights are actually on during my shift after lights out.

21 9. Housing unit deputies are required to perform general observation if the inmates,
 22 which are also called safety checks. These vary by houses and classification of inmate. If an
 23 inmate is in Housing Unit 21, these checks are performed and logged at intervals not to exceed
 24 thirty minutes. In Housing Unit 24, generally these checks are performed at the same interval,
 25 unless an inmate is on an individual observation log which calls for more frequent safety checks.

26 10. For general observation logs, housing unit deputies do walkthroughs, which
 27 consist of checking on inmates to ensure their welfare. After lights out, housing deputies are still
 28 required to perform general observation of inmates. When the main lights inside the cells are off,

1 housing deputies performing their visual observations may need to use a flashlight to illuminate
 2 the room to observe the inmate. While each cell has a window, if the main lights are off and there
 3 is insufficient ambient light, housing deputies use a flashlight to see inside the cells to check on
 4 the welfare of the inmate. If it is light enough inside a cell to observe an inmate, I will not use my
 5 flashlight. I personally have never purposefully shined a flashlight in an inmate's face and am not
 6 aware of any other deputy having purposefully done so. My custom and practice is to use my
 7 flashlight, if necessary, to illuminate the floor inside a cell and this usually gives sufficient light
 8 to see an inmate. If I cannot observe the inmate by shining my flashlight on the floor, I will point
 9 it at the ceiling and that will give sufficient light to observe the inmate. It is never my intent to
 10 wake up an inmate, but to perform this general observation; I must verify that the inmate is alive.
 11 If I cannot verify that an inmate is alive by visual observation alone, there are occasions when I
 12 will knock on the cell window, call out the inmate's name and, if still not responding, will open
 13 the door to the cell to ensure that the inmate is alive.

14 11. Some inmates require that medication be administered to them prior to breakfast.
 15 For example diabetic and inmates and inmates on methadone have a pill call at approximately
 16 0230 hours. Other inmates have court appearances that will keep them away from the normal
 17 morning pill call and must have their medication administered at the early pill call at
 18 approximately 0230 hours. In Housing Unit 21, this early morning pill call is performed cell door
 19 to cell door. During this early morning pill call, a nurse will come in with a list and I will escort
 20 the nurse to every inmate who requires early morning medication. Housing unit deputies do not
 21 turn lights on to conduct this early morning pill call, but will use their flashlights as necessary for
 22 visibility.

23 12. I reviewed the declaration inmate Tikisha Upshaw submitted in support of
 24 Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction. In that declaration, Ms. Upshaw states that "every
 25 cell is lit at night." While every cell has a night light, I have personally observed the cells that
 26 Ms. Upshaw has been in in Housing Unit 21 and Housing Unit 24 and her cells have always been
 27 pitch black with no lighting. If I am standing at her door, I cannot see inside her cell. The last
 28 day I worked in Housing Unit 24 prior to signing this declaration was Wednesday, February 6 to

1 Thursday, February 7, 2019. During my shift, Ms. Upshaw's cell was completely dark every time
 2 I walked by to observe her. Unless she has her main lights on, Ms. Upshaw's cell has been
 3 completely dark during nighttime hours every time I have observed it on every shift I have ever
 4 had at Santa Rita Jail. I was very surprised to learn that Ms. Upshaw is claiming difficulty
 5 sleeping at night because in my experience Ms. Upshaw is typically asleep when I observe her.

6 13. Ms. Upshaw also claims that the jail is very noisy at night. In my experience, the
 7 opposite is true. Specifically, Ms. Upshaw claims that pod workers vacuum and clean showers at
 8 night, however all cleaning in the pods by pod workers is finished before lights out. Ms. Upshaw
 9 also states that there are multiple announcements made over the public address system during
 10 nighttime hours. This is not true. Only mandatory announcements are made, such Prison Rape
 11 Elimination Act announcements. For example, if a male nurse needed to enter the Housing Unit
 12 to administer medication or first aid, the Housing Unit technician will announce that there is a
 13 male on the floor.

14 14. Ms. Upshaw also claims that I was outside her cell "one night... making a racket
 15 polishing metal." I do recall one time early in the morning at approximately 0200 hours cleaning
 16 door handles in the entire house, including cell door handles. When I did so, I made every effort
 17 to be quiet. In fact, I placed my foot gently against each cell door to prevent it from making noise
 18 when I cleaned the handles using a rag and brass cleaner.

19 15. I have reviewed Tyreka Stewart's declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for a
 20 Preliminary Injunction. I am surprised that Ms. Stewart is complaining about a lack of sleep.
 21 When I worked in Housing Unit 21 she did not seem to have any problems sleeping and I
 22 regularly observed her sleeping without any apparent difficulty.

23 16. I have reviewed the declaration of Crystal Emond in support of Plaintiff's
 24 Preliminary Injunction Motion. In my experience, she is typically awake during night hours with
 25 her lights on and read or writing. There have been a handful of times in my experience when she
 26 has appeared to be asleep. Since I only work during night, I do not know if Ms. Emond sleeps
 27 during day. Santa Rita Jail does not restrict inmates' from sleeping at any time day or night. In
 28 my experience, Ms. Emond has been given medication during early morning pill call because she

1 is scheduled by medical to have medication at that time and her name was always on the list for
 2 early morning pill call.

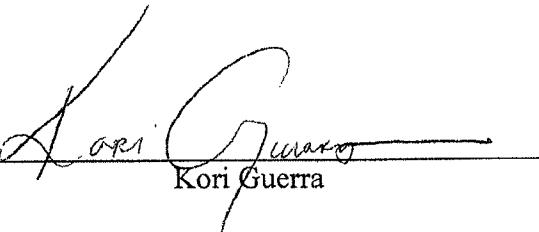
3 17. I have reviewed Sindel Botelho's declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Motion for
 4 Preliminary Injunction. I am surprised that Ms. Botelho is complaining about a lack of sleep.
 5 When I worked in Housing Unit 21 she did not seem to have any problems sleeping and I
 6 regularly observed her sleeping without any apparent difficulty.

7 18. When I perform safety checks, I activate my body-worn camera ("BWC") to
 8 document the safety checks. Many members of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, including
 9 myself, wear BWCs to assist in the performance of our duties by providing an audio and/or video
 10 record of law enforcement related encounters. An electronic recording system is used in
 11 conjunction with the BWCs to store, display, broadcast, copy, and retrieve the footage. The
 12 footage is stored within this system by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office in the course of
 13 regularly conducted business.

14 19. A true and correct copy of video and audio footage captured by my BWC on
 15 January 24, 2019 from approximately 23:29:30 to 23:38:36 hours PST (07:29:30 to 07:38:36
 16 hours "Z" for Zulu time, or Greenwich Mean Time ("GMT") on January 25, 2019) is on a disk
 17 manually filed concurrently with this declaration as **Exhibit A**. The footage contained in
 18 **Exhibit C** accurately depicts how I conducted my safety check starting at 23:29:30 in Housing
 19 Unit 24 as I went through D, E and F pods, and accurately depicts how I generally perform such
 20 safety checks and how I have observed other deputies perform safety checks. As depicted in the
 21 video, I take great care to perform my safety checks professionally and compassionately. I take
 22 great care to try to minimize noise levels and to avoid waking up inmates. The video footage
 23 shows that Housing Unit 24 D, E and F pods are generally quiet and clean. If the viewer looks at
 24 the video footage at and around time stamp 07:37:31Z, which is 23:37:31 PST, the footage
 25 depicts me performing a safety check of Tikisha Upshaw in her cell located in Housing Unit 24, E
 26 Pod, Cell 13. As the viewer can see, Ms. Upshaw's cell is very dark and I briefly turned on my
 27 flashlight and pointed it at the floor to confirm Ms. Upshaw's welfare, as there was insufficient
 28 light inside the cell for me to observe her.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
2 foregoing is true and correct.

3 Executed at Dublin, California on February 10, 2019.

4
5 By: 
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Kori Guerra

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